

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: September 22, 2014

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: October 2, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Cecily Harris, Development Consultant

SUBJECT: Alternative Funding, Program Development and Project Management Report

RECOMMENDATION:
Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:
This report covers alternative funding, program development and project management activities since the Commission's August 2014 meeting.

DISCUSSION:
1) Alternative Funding

There are no new grants awards to report at this time. There has, however, been significant activity reviewing and discussing grant guidelines for potential urban forestry management, riparian habitat restoration, and interpretative programs and projects. There are a number of fall deadlines for state and federal grants.

An application is being prepared for a California State Park and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund grant. County Parks is seeking funds for a second phase of restoration in the San Vicente Creek corridor within the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Currently, proposals are being sought from contractors to undertake a pilot or first phase of work. The pilot phase will be completed during fall 2014. This second phase will continue with the removal of non-native plants such as ice plant, garden nasturtium, cape ivy and Pittosporum species by mechanical or chemical means and replanting with suitable native species of riparian plants. The second phase could be done using contractors, conservation corps and/or volunteers.

2) Commemorative Benches

There continues to be great interest in the County Park Commemorative Bench Program. Since the Devil's Slide Trail opened in March 2013, seven of the thirteen benches have been dedicated. Benches have also been recently dedicated at Sawyer Camp Trail and Junipero Serra County Park.

Interest has also been expressed for new locations at Quarry Park, the upcoming Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam segment and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Coastal Trail.

3) Project Management

The Green Valley Trail Project planning phase is now underway. Once built, this trail will connect the southern parking area of the Devil's Slide Trail to the Gray Whale Cove State Beach parking lot via the Green Valley. This is another great partnership project as the Green Valley is owned by the State of California and managed by Caltrans and State Parks. It will also complete a gap in the California Coastal Trail by connecting the Devil's Slide Trail to coastal trail segments in Gray Whale Cove State Beach and Montara State Beach.

The Green Valley Trail planning phase includes the preparation of plans, specifications and permits for the Green Valley Trail and adjacent Gray Whale Cove State Beach parking lot. The phase will culminate with a biddable set of documents which will be used to hire a contractor to build the trail and improve the parking lot.

On September 10, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was released to a large list of consultants and posted on the County Park website. On September 19, a site visit was held for prospective bidders at the Green Valley Trail. Eight firms have either asked questions or attended the site visit. Proposals are due on September 30, 2014. We anticipate that the Board of Supervisors will award this contract at their November 18, 2014 meeting.